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CIA 4 Cuba

Who Won the Missile Confrontation?

Vice President Humphrey is said to be among those spreading a rumor that President Johnson, at the Glassboro meeting, persuaded Premier Kosygin to warn Fidel Castro against the further exporting of revolution. The rumor, and whatever of the Glassboro exchange may have sparked it, must have given Messrs. Kosygin and Castro a guffaw when they met a few days later in Havana.

The Kremlin continues to be Fidel Castro's paymaster, at the rate of nearly \$400 million a year. Very prominent on the agenda of the Kosygin-Castro get-together was the topic of the Latin American Solidarity Organization, which is assembling in Havana July 31-August 8 to review the progress made in extending the Latin American revolution since LASO's founding at the Tri-Continental Congress of January 1966. Granted that Castro is not choosy in seeking revolutionary backing. He is ready to work with Peking and Hanoi as well as Moscow, and Kosygin may have pressed him to stick closer to the old-fashioned line. But it is Moscow, not Peking or Hanoi or Zanzibar, that bakes Castro's bread, if it doesn't butter it; Moscow that makes possible the imports essential to Cuba's economy; and Moscow that puts up the money and much of the skilled staff for Cuba's revolutionary export industry.

Intelligence sources estimate that Castro is now spending the equivalent of more than a million dollars a month on underground and guerrilla movements in Latin America. Castro-linked operations on

one scale or another are proceeding in nearly every Latin American country. In Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia and most recently Bolivia they have been raised to a terrorist and guerrilla level. On July 19 the Mexican authorities arrested thirteen Cuban-trained operatives on charges of plotting to overthrow the government and establish a "popular Socialist regime." Their organization had just moved from the training and recruitment stage, to begin overt action with the dynamiting of a truck. The guerrillas active in southeastern Bolivia, near the Argentine border, include Brazilians, Argentinians and Peruvians. It is said that they were trained, and led in their first operations, by Che Guevara, who disappeared from Cuba two years ago, and that Guevara is in over-all command of the entire South American front. Although Guevara's presence has not been confirmed (CIA believes him to be dead), there is no doubt about Havana's being the active center of the Latin American revolution.

In his recent NBC telecast, Nikita Khrushchev claimed, in effect, what many of us have suspected: that he in truth, not John Kennedy, was the winner of the 1962 missile confrontation. In return for his withdrawal of the Soviet missiles from Cuba, he got President Kennedy's pledge that the U.S. would not interfere with Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba. "If rockets had not been installed, would there be a Cuba now? No, it would have been wiped out. We took our rockets and bombers away in exchange for President Kennedy's promise not to invade Cuba." By the present looks of things in Latin America, it was not a bad bargain by Bolshevik accounting.